



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Ashford, et al.

Application No.: 09/648,582

Filing Date: August 25, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO  
PHYSICIANS

) Group Art Unit: 3626

) Examiner: Natalie A. Pass

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE  
TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION OF  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2004 AND  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED  
EXAMINATION**

MAIL STOP RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that the correspondence enclosed herein is being deposited as first class mail with the United States Postal Service on this date January 24, 2005, in an envelope addressed to:  
Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: December 23, 2004 By:

*Magdalena Blackmer*  
Magdalena Blackmer

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2004, which was made Final, Applicants submit this Amendment and Response and Request for Continued Examination. Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be made part of the official record in the above-referenced application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.